



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, Mail Code: 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

**BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT**

RE: Development and Promulgation of a Tier 5 Locomotive Standard

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is writing to express its strong support for the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) petition requesting the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) exercise its authority to develop and promulgate more stringent emission standards for locomotives.

The Air District was created by the California Legislature in 1955, as the first regional agency to combat air pollution in California. The Air District's jurisdiction includes the nine county San Francisco Bay Area, home to approximately seven million people and over 100 municipalities. The Air District regulates approximately 20,000 stationary sources of air pollution in this jurisdiction and is governed by a twenty-four-member Board of Directors, consisting of elected officials, including county supervisors, mayors, and city council members.

The Air District had previously written to you on March 15, 2017, requesting USEPA consider accelerating current standards to reduce toxic diesel particulate matter emissions from locomotives operating in the West Oakland and Richmond, California communities, and along San Francisco Bay Area's rail corridors. The Air District believes that its request, in concert with the development of Tier 5 locomotive standards requested by ARB, would be protective of air quality and public health in these communities. The Air District would therefore encourage USEPA to consider these requests in tandem and to move forward on rulemaking to further reduce locomotive emissions as expeditiously as possible.

The Air District is making this request in light of the fact that it believes technologies to significantly reduce emissions from line-haul, switch, long-haul, and passenger locomotives are readily available. Additionally, the Air District believes that the timeline requiring these technologies be deployed on new and existing locomotives can be accelerated. The current deployment of higher emitting locomotives in the communities of West Oakland and Richmond - where Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad's operate large yards - has contributed to disproportionate exposure and elevated health impacts for residents when compared to other communities in the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Air District appreciates USEPA's consideration of this request in support of ARB's petition. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at (415) 749-5052 or jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov.

Sincerely,


Jack P. Broadbent
Executive Officer/APCO

Jack P. Broadbent
EXECUTIVE OFFICER/APCO

Connect with the
Bay Area Air District:



CC:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, US Senate
The Honorable Kamala Harris, US Senate
The Honorable Edmund J. Brown Jr, California Governor
The Honorable Mark Desaulner, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo, US House of Representatives
The Honorable John Garamendi, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Jared Huffman, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Ro Khanna, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Barbara Lee, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Jerry Mcnerney, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Jackie Speier, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Eric Swalwell, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, US House of Representatives
Matthew Rodriguez, California Secretary for Environmental Protection, California
Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources Board
Richard Corey, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
Alice Reynolds, Senior Advisor, Climate and Energy Office for Gov. Edmund J.
Brown
Heather Arias, Program Manager, California Air Resources Board